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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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Identical letters dated 19 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, I wish to draw your attention to the following information:

Syria has sent dozens of letters to the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations documenting all that the Syrian Arab Republic has endured over the last two and a half years, including direct and indirect aggression, bare-faced interference in its internal affairs, attacks on its sovereignty and independence, and a campaign to change its Government and constitutional order by force. Those acts have been carried out by the United States of America and its Western and regional allies, particularly France, Britain, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, in addition to their proxies, namely the armed terrorist groups and the Al-Qaida organization in its various iterations, branches, factions and labels, such as the Nusrah Front, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and other terrorist groups seeking to destroy Syria and commit atrocities and terrorist crimes against Syrian civilians. The States in question have provided those groups with all forms of media, political, material, military and logistical support, turning a blind eye to their crimes. Unreasonably and illogically, they hold the Syrian Government responsible for what is happening to the Syrian nation and people.

Indeed, American, French, British, Saudi Arabian, Qatari and Turkish officials have in recent months become increasingly open and explicit in arguing that the terrorist groups and Al-Qaida factions in Syria should be supported, recruited, sheltered, trained and given sophisticated weapons and military and logistical backing — as has been their covert practice since the outset of the Syrian crisis. Some of the States neighbouring Syria have turned their territory into centres to shelter and train terrorist groups for deployment in Syria. On 22 June 2013, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the so-called friends of the Syrian people in Doha publicly decided to provide every form of military and logistical support to what they referred to as the "Syrian opposition". On 27 May 2013, the Ministers for

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Foreign Affairs of the European Union decided to allow States members to export weapons to armed terrorist groups, thereby violating the counter-terrorism legislation of European States and the founding principles of the European Union. The League of Arab States has adopted ominous resolutions clearly and explicitly supporting the armed terrorist groups in Syria.

In order to demonstrate that those States have armed terrorist groups and the Al-Qaida organization in Syria, there is no need to rely on evidence from the Syrian Government. The States themselves clearly and explicitly admit to arming, supporting and funding the groups in every way. Reports and investigations carried out by the major global newspapers and news agencies, as well as the confessions of the so-called Syrian opposition leaders, indicate that terrorist groups in Syria have received large shipments of weapons through Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon.

The Syrian Government has welcomed the plan to convene an international conference in Geneva in order to resolve the Syrian crisis through dialogue. It has declared its intention to take part in the conference without preconditions. Yet the United States of America, France, Britain, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and other allied States are arming and supporting the armed terrorist groups and the Al-Qaida organization in Syria, notably by providing non-conventional weapons. Their purpose is to undermine any political solution to the Syrian crisis and to perpetuate the shedding of Syrian blood. Those States and their proxies in Syria bear full responsibility for the daily terrorist crimes against the Syrian nation and people. They are accessories to all of the acts of terrorism committed on Syrian territory. They are fully responsible for every drop of blood shed on Syrian soil from the outset of the crisis to the present day.

The United States of America, France, Britain, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, along with certain other States, are continuing to support, fund, arm, recruit and dispatch terrorists to Syria, in clear violation of the rules and principles of international law and the principles governing international relations and good-neighbourly relations, as well as the Security Council resolutions concerning counter-terrorism. They are also acting in clear and blatant violation of Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter of the United Nations. Moreover, the actions of those States are in violation of General Assembly resolution 44/34 of 1989, to which is annexed the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, as well as Assembly resolutions 49/60 of 1994 and 51/210 of 1996, to which are annexed the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism and the Declaration to Supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, respectively. They are furthermore in blatant violation of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism of 1999; General Assembly resolution 60/288 of 2006, which sets out the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX), to which is annexed the Definition of Aggression; General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) of 1970, to which is annexed the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, which the Security Council reaffirmed in its resolution 1189 (1998) of 13 August 1998; General Assembly resolution 42/22, to which is annexed the Declaration on the Enhancement of the Effectiveness of the Principle of Refraining from the Threat or Use of Force in International Relations; and General Assembly resolution 2131 (XX) of 21 December 1965, to which is annexed the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of

Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of Their Independence and Sovereignty. Those actions are also in violation of all the international instruments that address the various aspects of international terrorism and the terrorist crimes that are being committed by armed terrorist groups, including branches of Al-Qaida, and in the perpetration of which those States participate, either directly or indirectly. In addition, they are in violation of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1377 (2001) and 1989 (2011), which set out clearly, using unequivocal language that leaves no room for interpretation, a set of comprehensive counter-terrorism measures for Member States to implement. In those resolutions, States are also called on to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts; refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, and deny safe haven to entities or persons who commit terrorist acts; suppress recruitment of members of terrorist groups and prevent the provision of weapons to them; and refrain from planning, encouraging, financing, committing or supporting the commission of any act of terrorism. They are furthermore called on to increase cooperation and to implement fully the international counter-terrorism instruments.

The Syrian Arab Republic would like to draw the attention of the Security Council, the Secretary-General and the countries of the world to these clear acts of aggression that are being committed by the United States of America, Britain, France, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and certain other States through their ongoing support for terrorism, their blatant interference in Syria's internal affairs and their attacks on Syria. It calls on the Security Council and its relevant committees and the international community to investigate immediately these grave practices and conduct. Syria calls on the Security Council to take serious action to deter the terrorists by cutting off their sources of financial and moral support. The Council should furthermore compel those States that are conspiring against Syria to fulfil their counter-terrorism responsibilities and obligations and desist from interfering in Syria's internal affairs and attempting to break up the country and undermine its national unity and territorial integrity. Syria would also like to affirm that action by the Security Council to resolve this matter would make a constructive contribution to the consolidation of peace and security in Syria and the entire Middle East. It would also help to preserve the credibility of the United Nations and its Member States. Terrorism is a clear challenge to the entire civilized world and is the enemy of all humanity. The application of double standards when dealing with terrorism would encourage its spread; there cannot be bad terrorists and good terrorists.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 110, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative